Allocation of rice under APL category to Andhra Pradesh

38. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rice allocated under APL category to Andhra Pradesh has been reduced from 1.31 lakh tonnes a month;

(b) if so, the reasons behind this decline in allocation;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh requested personally to restore the State's quota of rice for PDS under the APL category; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action so far been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The allocations of foodgrains for the Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made depending upon availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Therefore, in view the declining stock position of rice in the Central Pool, a uniform decision was taken to rationalize rice allocations of the APL category under the TPDS *w.e.f.* April, 2007 by linking them to the offtake figures of the earlier three years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06. However, in view of higher offtake in Andhra Pradesh during that period, there was no reduction in the allocation to Andhra Pradesh on account of the above rationalization.

Further, in view the constraints on availability of rice in the Central Pool due to lower procurement during KMS 2006-07 and KMS 2007-08 than overall demands from States/UTs, allocations for APL category to States/UTs for 2008-09 have been made on the basis of average of offtake level of APL rice during 2006-07 and 2007-08. The allocation of rice to Andhra Pradesh for the APL category got revised from 176089 tons to 131334 tons per month from April, 2003 onwards. There has been no further reduction in the allocation of rice for the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) In view of requests of State Government, a special additional incentive based *adhoc* allocation of 2 lakh tons of rice for APL category has been made from October, 2008 to February, 2009. It has also been decided to continue this additional *adhoc* allocation of APL rice to Andhra Pradesh upto September, 2009 depending upon completion of monthly targets of rice procurement.

Import price of wheat

39. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the import price of wheat and the total quantity of wheat imported during the year 2006 and 2007;

(b) whether it is a fact that the price paid during the year 2007 is almost 150 per cent to 200 per cent more than the previous year; and

(c) if so, the comparative prices paid by other importing countries during the year 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The price at which wheat is imported by private sector varies from case to case depending on the international price and other relevant factors. The import price and quantity of wheat imported by Government during the year 2006 and 2007 for Central Pool is as under:-

Sl. No.	Year	Weighted average price (per MT)	Quantity (in lakh MT)
1	2006	Rs. 9,145.40	44.31
2	2007	Rs. 11,841.74	20.35

(b) No, Sir. The price paid by Government for the import of wheat during 2007 is only about 29 per cent higher than the previous year *i.e.* 2006.

(c) Does not arise.

Misuse and malpractice of PDS articles

40. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the extra measures taken in addition to the conventional system and procedure to correct and control the misuse and malpractice of PDS articles;

(b) what are the major areas of misuse and malpractice and the major articles on which such malpractices have been in vogue; and

(c) whether such practices have been due to system failure or human failure or both?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 was issued.

The Department of Food and Public Distribution got TPDS evaluated by ORG MARG. This evaluation covered the period of 2003-04 and 2004-05. The report received in 2005 mentioned diversion of 39% of rice and 53% of wheat under TPDS. The report mentioned that diversion was because of inclusion errors, leakages through ghost ration cards and pilferage during transportation and from Fair Price Shops.

To streamline functioning of TPDS, Government has taken a series of measures. Apart from regular monitoring and review with State/UT Governments, Government has been getting functioning of TPDS evaluated from time to time through independent agencies. To streamline functioning of TPDS, steps taken by Government are of four categories: